

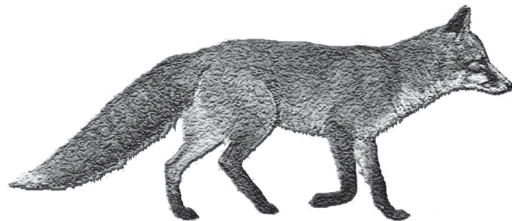
## *The Traditions of Opening Meet*

**S**outh Creek Foxhounds carries on the tradition of mounted foxhunting. It is guided by its Joint Masters, J. Patrick Michaels, Jr., Barbara A. Phethean, and Michael J. Ferraro and has members from all walks of life who love the countryside, horses, hounds, and sport. The hunt is home to over 40 crossbred foxhounds, whose pedigrees go back centuries. The object of foxhunting is to allow the hounds to find a wild fox, coyote, or bobcat to chase, using their sense of smell to follow the quarry over hill and dale. Foxhounds hunt as a pack, and stay together during the chase. The foxhunters follow the glorious sound of the pack as they give cry to their chase.

Opening meet is a special time for foxhunters to share and celebrate with friends, family, landowners, and other hunt supporters. It marks the official beginning of a new hunting season, and the end of an arduous period of training hounds, conditioning horses (and people), clearing trails, repairing and installing jumps and the extensive daily off-season chores required to maintain a hunt.

By tradition, these festivities include: The Stirrup Cup, the Blessing of the Hounds, the awarding of St. Hubert Medals, and the Hunt, followed by a catered Hunt Breakfast and socializing.

The schedule on the reverse side explains more about these activities...



## *Schedule & Directions*

**9:00 a.m. Blessing of the Hounds & Conferring of St. Hubert Medals**  
“Hear our prayer, O Lord, for all animals...” Thus begins one of the oldest traditions of our sport: the Blessing of the Hounds and the conferral of St. Hubert medals. While foxhunting in America dates “only” to 1650, the ritual of blessing the hounds dates to the Middle Ages, and St. Hubert himself, the patron Saint of hunters, to the 600’s.

**9:10 a.m. Stirrup Cup**  
Riders will get on their horses. Riders and guests will be served the traditional Stirrup Cup or Port.

**9:15 a.m. The Foxhunt**  
Non-riding guests are welcome to follow on a tally ho bus.

**11:00 a.m. Breakfast**  
A catered Hunt Breakfast will be served.

### *DIRECTIONS TO LITTLE EVERGLADES RANCH...*

#### **From Interstate 75**

Take Exit 285 (State Road 52) east to Dade City.  
Do not turn at traffic light to go into Dade City (Hwy. 52 will turn right).  
Continue straight until the next traffic light (Locke Street).  
Turn right on Locke Street and go to the traffic light at U.S. Hwy 301.  
Turn left onto U.S. Hwy. 301 and travel north approximately 2.5 miles.  
Turn right onto Ashbrook Road and follow it to the Ranch.  
Ranch entrance is just after the railroad tracks.

#### **From Intersection of State Road 50 and U.S. Highway 301**

Take US Hwy. 301 south for approximately 6 miles to Ashbrook Road.  
(Ashbrook is the next road after Citgo Station at Gould Rd. and U.S. 301).  
Turn left onto Ashbrook Road and follow it to the Ranch.  
Ranch entrance is just after the railroad tracks.